

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0002] as follows:

[0002] Infrared countermeasures systems which protect military aircraft from handheld or shoulder-fired missiles, such as "Stinger" missiles, are known in the art. These systems, such as Directional Infrared Countermeasure (DIRCM) systems, **detect and** track ~~an infrared~~ **a** signature associated with an approaching missile, and generate high power infrared laser signals which are transmitted as a countermeasure to confuse **and defeat** the attacking missile guidance system. Directional infrared countermeasure systems typically utilize an infrared-wavelength source which is passed through a rotating ball turret which is attached to the aircraft fuselage. The system also deploys numerous sensors mounted in various positions on the outside skin of the aircraft. Typically, electronic "black" boxes affiliated with the system are normally integrated into the interior of the aircraft and communicate via an avionics bus located within the fuselage of the aircraft.